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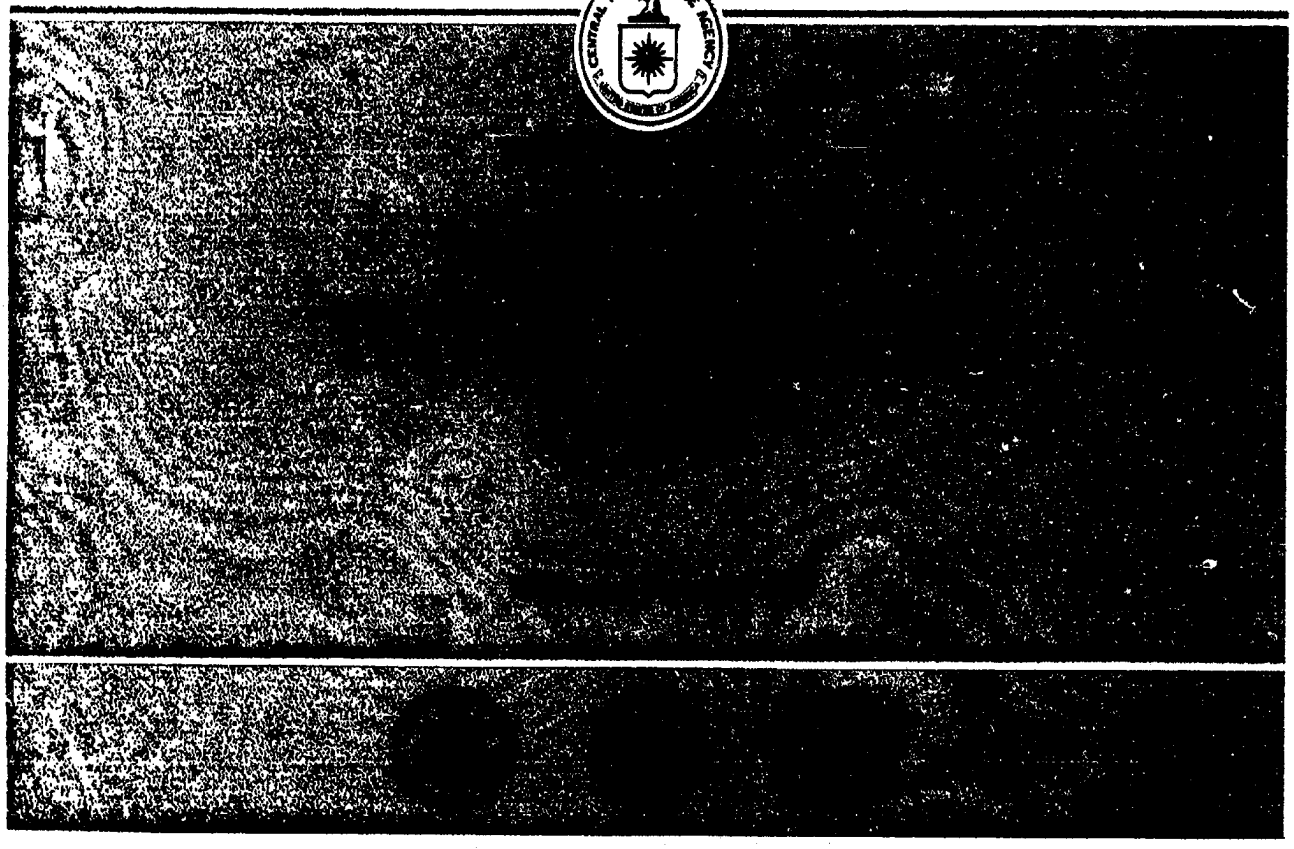

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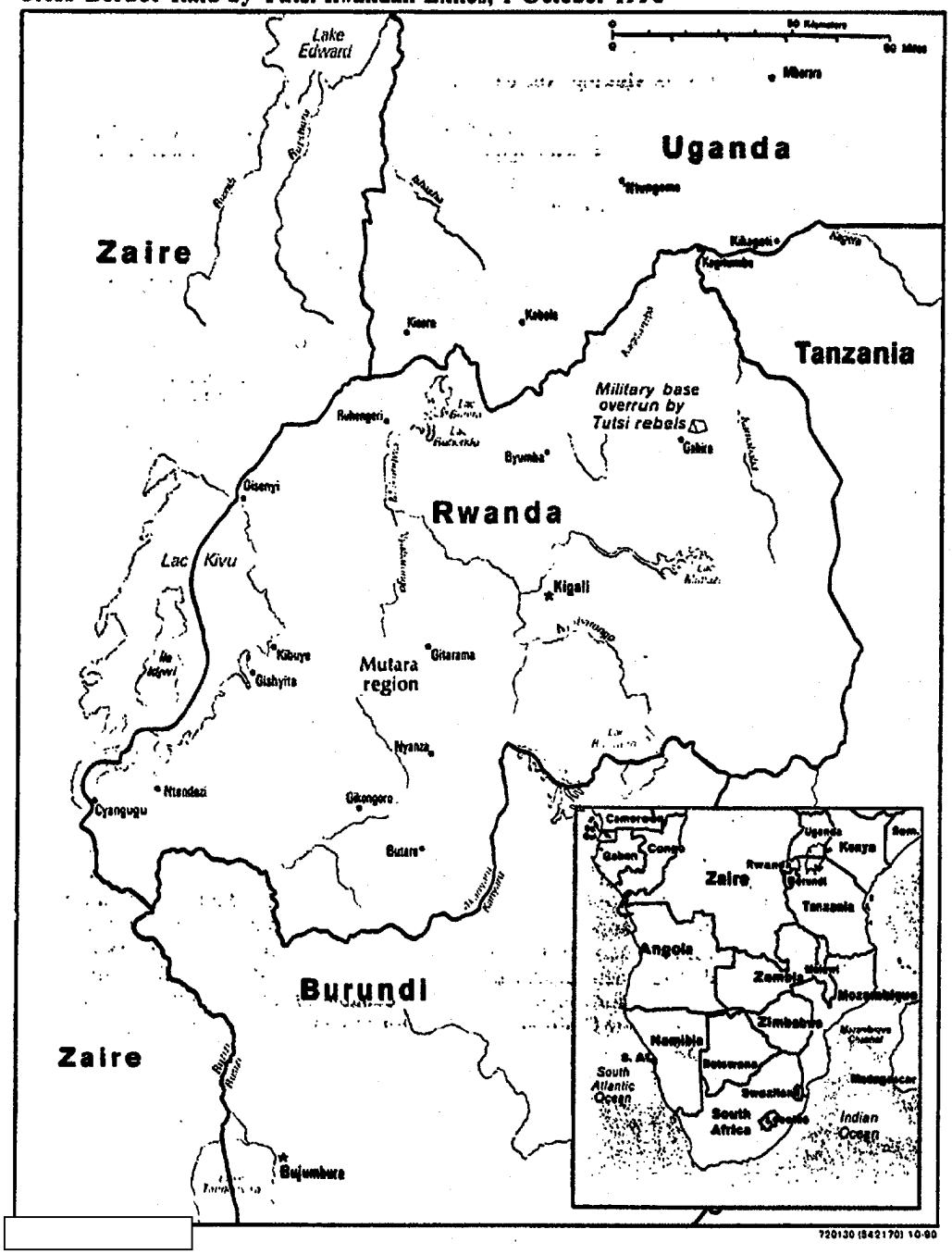
Lake Edward
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UGANDA: Exiles Attack Rwanda

Some 700 ethnic Tutsi Rwandan exiles, including rogue elements of the Ugandan Army, attacked Rwanda on Monday, [redacted] the rebels have overrun the Gabiro military base and that Rwanda yesterday ordered reinforcements to the Mutara region and instituted a nationwide curfew. Belgium, the former colonial power in Rwanda, will airlift munitions to Kigali today. Ugandan President Museveni has condemned the invasion and has discussed the attack with Rwandan President Habyarimana; both were in New York at the UN and have refrained from inflammatory rhetoric. [redacted]

Comment: Although the exiles probably do not have the troops, supplies, or popular support in Rwanda to sustain the invasion, the combat-experienced rebels may have some success until Rwandan numerical superiority can assert itself. The Tutsi attack is certain to inflame longstanding ethnic hatred in Hutu-dominated Rwanda. Museveni's quick repudiation of the invasion and talks with Habyarimana may help reduce bilateral tensions if the rebels are quickly defeated. Museveni, the current OAU chairman, is surely embarrassed by the participation of his Army; the domestic standing of both Presidents is likely to suffer. [redacted]

[redacted]